

## Punctuation and spelling

I've been to the following Italian cities: Rome, Florence, Genoa and Pisa. I thought Rome was incredible: the food was great, the views were fantastic and I will never forget the vivacious people. The Italians' legendary hospitality was nowhere more evident than in the capital city. But my all-time favourite is probably Genoa, with its fabulous hill-top houses and its dusty mountains, reverberating to the sound of grasshoppers. I spent many a happy hour looking down on the seething city below and the sea beyond. Best of all, the city's location at the heart of the Italian Riviera meant that fabulous resorts like Portofino and Camogli were only a train ride away.

Water is becoming a more and more precious commodity, so save as much as you can.

Flushing the toilet accounts for a third of all household water use, so don't flush wastefully. If you are only getting rid of a tissue, for example, resist the habit of reaching for the handle or chain. Take a shower rather than a bath; it uses about a third of the water. And don't keep the water running all the time when you wash or clean your teeth. If you have a garden, try to find ways of saving water outside, such as using a water butt to collect rain water, rather than using a hosepipe to water your flowers. A simple pipe connecting external gutters to a water butt can save an awful lot of water.

- 2 a) *bear, bare*  
b) *sight, site*  
c) *waist, waste*  
d) *sees, seize*  
e) *paste, paced*